November 7, 1997, December 25, 1997, March 1, 1998, April 4, 1998 and May 20, 1998 as follows:

With effect from	Ex-Storage point price (excluding Excise duty etc.) Rs/ KL	Change Rs/KL
07.11.97	7918.04	(-) 456.83
25.12.97	7996.84	(+) 78.80
01.03.98	7839.24	(-) 157.60
04.04.9S	7645.47	(-) 193.77
20.05.98	7536.89	(-) 108.58

Price of other Petroleum Products such as Naphtha, LSHS, FO and Bitumen are being fixed by Oil Companies on market consideration. The benefit of decline in international prices has been passed on the Indian consumers.

Demurrage Costs on Petroleum Products

1202. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that demurrage costs on petroleum products comprising mainly diesel rose from Rs. 8 crores in 1985-86 to Rs. 181.8 crores in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith demurrage costs on petroleum products during the last three years;

(c) whether the international division of the Indian Oil Corporation is continuing to import diesel even though it is well known that there is no storage space at the country's ports; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The demurrage cost on petroleum products imported during 1985-86 and 1994-95 was as under:—

1995-96 — Rs. 8.03 crores
I994.95 _ Rs 187.87 crores

(b) The details of demurrage cost on petroleum products during last three years arc as under:—

1995-96 — Rs. 369.3 crores
1996-97 — Rs. 565.7 crores
1997-98 — Rs. 448.8 crores

(c) and (d) The last bulk purchases of Diesel against monthly tender were done on 14.8.1998 and there have been no bulk purchases of Diesel thereafter. No Diesel imports have been firmed up under Term Tender for the period bey ond December, 1998.

Withdrawal by Oil Major Royal Shell from Joint Venture

1203. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Oil Major Royal Shell has pulled out of the proposed Rs. 10.000 crores Joint Venture Project with Bharat Petroleum in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so. Government's reaction in respect thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) First stage approval was accorded to the proposal of BPCL in May 1997 for setting up a 7 MMTPA capacity refinery in Uttar Pradesh as a Joint Venture with M/s. Shell International Petroleum Company Limited (Shell). Preparation of the Detailed Feasibility Report (DFR) was ac-cordingly taken up jointly by BPCL and Shell. However, in July 1998 Shell indicated that they were withdrawing from the project and have since not thereafter participated in the preparation of DFR. BPCL has since prepared the DFR and submitted it to Government.